

Immunization Registry Progress in Illinois

Note: Unless otherwise stated, the information in this fact sheet was obtained from data and information submitted by the program manager or representative from the immunization program in Illinois.

Immunization Coverage in Illinois

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 81%, up five percentage points from 1997-1998 data.

Facts about Cornerstone/TOTS

- Cornerstone/TOTS collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Illinois.
- The targeted age group for Cornerstone/TOTS is birth through preschool (4-6 years of age).
- Currently, entities linking with the registry include:
 - Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS);
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program;
 - Community/Migrant Health Centers; and
 - Other county, regional or state registries.
- As of June 21, 1999:
 - 31% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
 - 5% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

Other unique qualities about Cornerstone/TOTS

Although both the public (Cornerstone) and private (Tracking Our Toddlers' Shots - TOTS) registries focus on maintaining data regarding the shot records of infants and children in Illinois, the systems accommodate immunization information on all age groups. TOTS is being marketed as a system to manage this important information for all age groups.

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes

There now is available limited immunization history information on almost 80% of Illinois children under age six in either the TOTS or Cornerstone system. Availability of this data has assisted both public and private vaccine providers participating in the registry systems to address these children's health care needs in a timely and productive manner.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress

- While 95% of publicly funded vaccine providers now utilize Cornerstone, the TOTS system still is in a pilot test phase with selected private providers. General release of the product is expected within the next year. Numerous technological issues have arisen in the development and marriage of these two separate data systems which are expected to share their data routinely.

- Systems like TOTS, which build in patient management systems to promote and evaluate practice-wide immunization coverage levels, are in demand by managed care organizations and by many private physicians. However, as delays in the delivery of TOTS have occurred, we remain concerned that providers will invest time and funds in commercial patient management systems which will fulfill a portion of their practice needs, and then be unwilling to participate in the statewide immunization system at a later date.
- Issues and concerns for patient confidentiality continue to be a challenge for any registry or information system. Our intent is to allow only those records with patient or guardian consent to be housed in the statewide information system. Some providers have expressed disinterest in the system until there is protective legislation for providers and their patients whose records may be housed in the registry.

Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity:

During the last three years a variety of coalitions and organizations opposing immunizations have gained a vocal national presence in opposing most preventive health actions relating to immunizations, including immunization registry development. These groups have influenced and guided legislative proposals which seek to revoke existing legislation requiring protective immunizations of daycare and school aged children. Most of the protection from vaccine preventable diseases that Illinois residents reap is as a direct result of these existing immunization requirements. Registry initiatives can further enhance existing population protection against vaccine preventable diseases by presenting a full immunization history on each participating child. This will reduce the need to re-immunize children whose immunization histories "appear" lacking to one provider by providing a history that represents numerous visits to all participating public and private providers.

Current registry funding

- Cornerstone/TOTS is currently funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by the State of Illinois.
- Immunization registries are expensive to develop and to maintain. The All Kids Count organization has identified that the average cost per immunization registry record exceeds \$4. In Illinois, our projected cost for 1999 exceeds \$2 million, which equates to about \$2.50 per patient record. We do not expect that cost to decrease since it primarily represents personnel and telecommunications costs. We have not received adequate Federal or state funding to support all planned development initiatives for 1999. We are seeking additional funding to support services not fully funded for the remainder of 1999. If we are unable to acquire these additional funds or to continue existing funding levels in 2000, the registry initiative will be severely impacted.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Illinois

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Suggestions for Mrs. Ryan's involvement and support

Presenting the positive impact good immunization practices can have on the health of all Illinoisans.